

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

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Mr. Malcolm Wiener
Wiener Foundation
Millburn Corp 1270 6th Avenue
New York NY 10020

Dear Malcolm:

I want to thank you for sending me your ms. on the Thera eruption ... I am in awe of the erudition and meticulous cross-disciplinary scholarship that went into it. I learned a lot about which I had hardly an inkling, and especially a healthy respect for the methodological problems. It has never occurred to me that Thera would have had global consequences, but of course

I am reduced to mentioning (a very few!) typos that might be worth a spell-check: "sulpher", and "coterminus", as I have so little else to offer. I have often pondered the miracle of historical transformation, the flowering of Greek philosophy and science within a few centuries of literacy -- what could account for the biological substratum that could enable such achievements. I have probably underrated the continuity with much longer traditions in Egypt and the mid-East.

But if I say any more, I will just dramatize my ignorance.

I realize the problems lie mostly elsewhere, but if C-14 analysis recurs as an issue, I know well Dr. Richard A. Muller at the UC/B who developed cyclotron microanalysis for C-14, and I am sure would be fascinated by many of the issues you raise. He is also much into catastrophism -- I wonder if he has any informed views on the dating of Thera.

Yours sincerely,


Joshua Lederberg